

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 4. Part 10. Pp. 103—114

OPINION 220

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera), in so far as the use of those Powers is required to provide that name with the status of availability

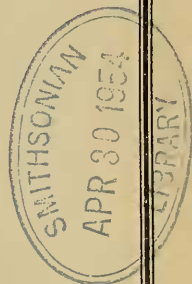
LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1954

Price Four Shillings and Sixpence

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 220

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Vice-President : Dr. James L. Peters (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*).
Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

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Dr. Karl JORDAN (British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England) (*President of the Commission*).
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Dr. Norman R. STOLL (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.).

C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

- Professor Enrique BELTRÁN (Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables A.C., Mexico City, Mexico).
Dr. Edward HINDLE (Zoological Society of London, London, England).
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Professor Ragnar SPÄRCK (Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark).
Professor Victor van STRAELEN (Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium).
Professor Robert L. USINGER (University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.).

OPINION 220

VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE
GENERIC NAME "BOMBUS" LATREILLE, 1802
(CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)
IN SO FAR AS THE USE OF THOSE POWERS
IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THAT
NAME WITH THE STATUS OF
AVAILABILITY

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) is hereby validated as against the name *Bremus* Panzer-Jurine (as published in Part 85 of the *Faun. Ins. germ.*), a name at present of indeterminate date, in the event of it later being established that that name has priority over the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802.

(2) The name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 (gender of name : masculine) with *Apis terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758, as type species, by monotypy, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 652.

(3) The generic name *Bremus* Panzer, [1801—1804], is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 31.

(4) The specific name *terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Apis terrestris*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 30.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 16th August 1937, the late Professor A. D. Imms (*President*) and Professor O. W. Richards (*Secretary*), Royal Entomological Society of London, formally communicated to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature Part 5 of the work entitled *The Generic Names of British Insects*, published two days earlier, intimating that the Council of the Society concurred in the recommendations set forth in the foregoing Part and commended those recommendations to the favourable consideration

of the International Commission. The above Part contained a Report by the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee¹ of the Society's Committee on Generic Nomenclature setting out the names of the genera of Hymenoptera Aculeata represented in the British fauna. Attached to the Sub-Committee's Report was a detailed survey of the problems involved which had been prepared for the Sub-Committee by Dr. O. W. Richards, one of its members. The Report contained recommendations regarding seventeen generic names and two specific names. Among the former was included the case of the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, with which the present *Opinion* is concerned. The Sub-Committee's recommendations in relation to this and other names were set out in a schedule, prepared by Dr. Richards, annexed to its Report. The proposal in regard to the present case was lettered (n) and appeared on pages 92—93 in the Report as published. The applications submitted in the Sub-Committee's Report were later, for purposes of convenience, treated as separate cases, though at the time of their receipt they were all given the same Registered Number—Z.N.(S.) 133—in the Secretariat of the Commission. The application submitted in the present case was as follows :—

Proposed Suspension of the " Règles " for " Bombus " Latreille, 1802
(Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)

By R. B. BENSON, M.A.

(Assistant Keeper in the Department of Entomology, British Museum
(Natural History)),

CH. FERRIÈRE

(Imperial Institute of Entomology, London),

and

O. W. RICHARDS, D.Sc.

(Imperial College of Science and Technology, London)

Latreille (1802, *Hist. nat. Fourmis* : 437) founded the monobasic genus *Bombus*, type *Apis terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758.

¹ At the time of the submission of the foregoing Report the composition of the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee was as follows :—R. B. Benson, M.A. ; Ch. Ferrière ; O. W. Richards, D.Sc.

² The composition of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature was the same at this time as at the date of the submission of Part 4 of the *Generic Names of British Insects*, and has been given in footnote 2 to *Opinion* 211, which deals with a recommendation submitted in that Part.

Panzer ([1801], *Faun. Ins. germ.*, 85 : plates 19—21) published the genus *Bremus* and included three species, *Bremus fasciatus* (= *Apis terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758), *Bremus agrorum* (= *Apis agrorum* Fabricius, 1787) and *Bremus silvarum* (= *Apis silvarum* Linnaeus, 1758). Morice and Durrant (1914, *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.* 1914 : 429) fixed the type of *Bremus* as *Apis terrestris* Linnaeus.

Hymenopterists have almost universally employed the generic name *Bombus*, except that since 1914 most American authors have adopted the name *Bremus* Panzer-Jurine, 1801 (*Intelligenzblatt der Literatur-Zeitung*, Erlangen : 160—165, i.e. the "Erlangen List").

In view of the extensive literature associated with the name *Bombus*, we are of the opinion that the adoption of the name *Bremus* would cause more confusion than uniformity.

We are of the opinion that in the exercise of the Plenary Powers conferred on them by the International Zoological Congress, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should as soon as possible take the steps laid down by the Congress for the promulgation of an *Opinion* to the following effect :—

The name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 (type *Apis terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758) be added to the *Official List of Generic Names*. The name *Bremus* Panzer, 1801 (with the same type) is to be set aside and have no status in nomenclature.³

³ The above is an extract from the First Report of the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature of the Royal Entomological Society of London. At that time the Committee was composed of :—Sir Guy Marshall, K.C.M.G., F.R.S. (*Chairman*), Dr. K. G. Blair, Dr. F. W. Edwards, Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E., Dr. O. W. Richards, Mr. N. D. Riley, and Professor W. A. F. Balfour-Browne (*Hon. Secretary*). On receiving the Sub-Committee's Report, the Committee on Generic Nomenclature, in their Fifth Report, recommended the Council of the Royal Entomological Society of London to transmit the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee's recommendations to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for favourable consideration. This recommendation was approved by the Council of the Society and, on the publication of the Committee's Fifth Report on 14th August 1937, the Sub-Committee's recommendations were forwarded to the International Commission by the Council of the Society.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. It had not been found possible to advance the consideration of the present case by the time that the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 led to the evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. When in 1944 the present case was being prepared for the printer, Mr. Hemming came to the conclusion that the end desired by the applicants could be attained without the use by the International Commission of its Plenary Powers, for in *Opinion 135* (1939, *Ops Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 7—12) the Commission had suppressed the so-called “Erlangen List” under the Plenary Powers, a decision which deprived of availability the name *Bremus* Jurine, 1801, the name which the applicants had looked upon as invalidating the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802. After communicating with the applicants, Mr. Hemming annexed the following explanatory note to the application in this case before sending it to the printer :—

Since this petition was submitted, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature have rendered *Opinion 135* (*Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 2 : 7—12*), in which they have suppressed the “Erlangen List” under their Plenary Powers. Accordingly, the name *Bremus* Panzer-Jurine, 1801, referred to in the present petition, no longer has any status in zoological nomenclature, and the object desired in the petition can be obtained by the Commission placing the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, without it being necessary for them first to use their Plenary Powers to suspend the *Règles Internationales*. (int'd) F.H. 11th August 1944.

3. The present application, with Mr. Hemming's annexed note, was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 28th February 1947 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 204).

4. The publication of the present application in the *Bulletin* elicited a letter of support from the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) who on 8th April 1947, wrote :—" The proposals by Benson, Ferrière and Richards should be accepted ".

5. On receipt of certain additional information relating to this case, the Secretary, when preparing the papers to be submitted to the International Commission at its Paris Session, added the following Minute to the file on 1st May 1948 :—

Dr. O. W. Richards has kindly drawn my attention to a paper by Miss G. A. Sandhouse published in 1943 (*Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 92 : 519—619) entitled " The type species of the genera and subgenera of Bees ", which has a bearing on the application relating to the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, submitted by the Royal Entomological Society of London.

2. Before dealing with the point made by Miss Sandhouse, I must correct a mistake made in my footnote of 11th August 1944 (1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 204), where I expressed the view that the suppression by the Commission of the " Erlangen List " of 1801 under its Plenary Powers (*Opinion* 135) left *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, in undisputed possession of priority for the genus so well known under this name. In making this statement I overlooked the fact that it is necessary to take account not only of the name *Bremus* Jurine, 1801 (*Litt. Ztg. Intell.-Blatt.*, Erlangen, 1801 : 164) (*i.e.* the " Erlangen List ") but also of *Bremus* Panzer, as published in Part 85 (pls 19—21) of the *Faun. Ins. germ.* This latter name is also attributed to the year 1801 by Sherborn in the *Index Animalium* (1924, *Index Anim.*, Pars secund. (4) : 871). Accordingly, if this date were to be accepted for *Bremus* Panzer, that name would have priority over *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, and, if no action were to be taken by the Commission, might replace that name.

3. In the paper referred to above, Miss Sandhouse (1) discusses the date of *Bremus* Panzer, and (2) selects a type species for that nominal species. On point (1) she states that the date is uncertain and that, subsequent to the publication of the *Index Animalium*, Dr. Sherborn gave her " 1804 (?) " as his best guess. On (2) she selected as the type species of this genus *B. agrorum* Jurine (= *Apis agrorum* Fabricius, 1787).

4. In view of Miss Sandhouse's type selection for *Bremus* Panzer, the genus so named and *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, are subjectively identical with one another, the question which has now to be considered is therefore what date should be attributed to *Bremus* Panzer. In 1924 (as already noted) Sherborn dated this name from 1801, thus giving priority to *Bremus* Panzer over *Bombus* Latreille ; at some later

date, however, he gave Miss Sandhouse the date "1804 (?)", thus making *Bombus* an older name than *Bremus*.

5. In these circumstances there seems little risk of its being found that *Bremus* Panzer has priority over *Bombus* Latreille and therefore the Commission would be safe in accepting *Bombus* Latreille as an available name. To be on the safe side, however, it is for consideration whether the Commission would be well advised to use the Plenary Powers conditionally for the purpose of protecting *Bombus* Latreille against any possible attack from *Bremus* Panzer.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. In presenting this case, the Acting President (Mr. Francis Hemming) drew attention to the problem presented by the uncertainty existing as to the date to be attributed to the name *Bremus* Panzer and recommended the Commission to use its Plenary Powers to such extent, if any, as might be necessary, to secure that in no circumstances should it be possible to replace *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, by *Bremus* Panzer on grounds of priority. As noted in the Official Record of the Proceedings at this meeting (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 406), "General agreement was expressed with the view submitted by the Acting President and with the course of action which he had recommended". Notice of the possible use of the Plenary Powers had not been given in the present case, since until a short time before the Paris Session, it had appeared that the end sought by the applicants could be attained without resort to the Plenary Powers. At an earlier stage of the Paris Session it had however been agreed to suspend the By-Laws of the Commission for the duration of that Session (Paris Session, 2nd Meeting, Conclusion 2) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 7—8), and the present case was accordingly dealt with under that procedure.

7. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the Commission at the Thirteenth Meeting of its

Paris Session, setting out the decision then reached by it in the present case (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 41) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 404—407) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) to use their Plenary Powers to such extent, if any, as might be necessary, to validate the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) as against the name *Bremus* Panzer-Jurine (as published in Part 85 of the *Faun. Ins. germ.*), a name of at present indeterminate date, in the event of it later being established that that name had priority over *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 ;
- (2) to place the name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802 (type species, by monotypy : *Apis terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758), validated, to such extent, if any, as might be necessary, under the decision taken in (1) above, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and the name *Bremus* Panzer-Jurine [1801—1804], on the corresponding *Official Index* ;
- (3) to place the trivial name *terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Apis terrestris*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

8. The following are original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

Bombus Latreille, 1802, *Hist. nat. Fourmis* : 437

Bremus Panzer, [1801—1804], *Faun. Ins. germ.* 85 : pls. 19—21

terrestris, *Apis*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 578

9. The gender of the generic name *Bombus* Latreille, 1802, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 7 above, is masculine.

10. The decision relating to the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 108).

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

12. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

13. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions Rep. zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

14. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Twenty (220) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Thirtieth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

